

Update Depth Markers by May 1, 2010.

Our inspectors have noted this on pool inspection forms during the summer of 2009 so that you would have time to get this done while the pools are closed for the winter. In 2003, the Swimming Pool Regulations were amended to require deck and waterline depth markers have **4-inch letters and numerals**. Type “B” pools must also have a **universal no diving tile** co-located with each set of deck depth markers. If you are interested in receiving two checklists to use as guidance to determine if your depth markers are compliant with the current regulation, please contact your regional recreational waters manager. Painted depth markers are no longer acceptable (regulations specify depth marker tiles). **Please submit a Change Order Request form when updating your depth markers.**

EQC Regional Offices

The local Environmental Quality Control (EQC) Office performs compliance inspections and can provide technical assistance. Check the numbers below for the office in your area.

Aiken Office (803) 641-7670
Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun

Anderson Office..... (864) 260-5569
Anderson, Oconee

Beaufort Office (843) 846-1030
Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton

Charleston Office (843) 953-0150
Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester

Columbia Office..... (803) 896-0620
Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield

Florence Office (843) 661-4825
Florence, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield

Greenville Office (864) 241-1090
Greenville, Pickens

Greenwood Office (803) 223-0333
Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick

Lancaster Office (803) 285-7461
Lancaster, Chester, York

Myrtle Beach Office (843) 238-4378
Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg

Spartanburg Office..... (864) 596-3800
Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union

Sumter Office..... (803) 596-3800
Sumter, Kershaw, Lee, Clarendon

DHEC Central Office Contact Numbers

Main Telephone Number (803) 898-4300

Main Fax Number (803) 898-3795

For questions concerning construction permits and change orders, call Shawn Clarke..... (803) 898-3544

For questions concerning program policies and compliance issues, call Jim Ridge (803) 898-4015

For questions concerning operating permit fees and address changes, call Marquisha Williams (803) 898-3540

NEWSPLASH

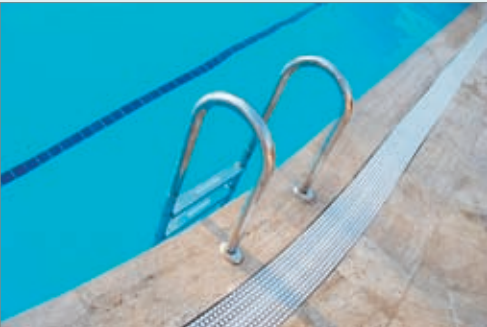
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Regulation 61-51, Public Swimming Pools

National Certification

On June 26th, 2009, DHEC began accepting national certifications.

- The National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) Certified Pool Operator (CPO) five-year certification has met established S.C. criteria. The certification issued through NSPF must be current. NSPF mandates the Certified Pool Operator certification must be renewed every five years. For questions/ comments contact www.nspf.org or 719-540-9119.



- The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Aquatics Facility Operator (AFO) 5-year certification has met established SC criteria. The certification issued through NRPA must be current. NRPA mandates the Aquatics Facility Operator certification must be renewed every five years. For questions/ comments contact www.nrpa.org or 703-858-4732.

State Certification

- Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) continues to administer the South Carolina Pool Operator of Record exam. The state pool operator certification currently does not require renewal. The exam has also been revised along with Reg. 61-51, SC pool regulation. There are multiple versions of the exam that now contains 60 questions. You must get 42 of the 60 questions correct to pass with a score of 70 percent. There is no registration fee. The cost to take the exam is \$95.
- For questions/ comments contact www.goAMP.com or 1-800-345-6559.

Disinfection/Water Quality

- Disinfectants inactivate or destroy the vast majority of microorganisms that can cause human disease. The revised requirements that must be maintained for all pools are as follows:

Chlorine	1 to 8 parts per million (ppm) free chlorine
Bromine	2.3 to 17.6 parts per million (ppm)
pH	7.0 to 7.8 standard units
- The product labels for registered chemicals must be followed, in addition to complying with state regulations. This often requires that you use a conversion factor based on the pool/spa volume.
- A pool water quality test kit capable of measuring free available chlorine, bromine, pH and cyanuric acid levels must be available at the facility during posted operating hours.
- pH is a measurement of the hydrogen ion concentration in water. Controlling pH is important for the efficiency of the disinfectant, increasing the useful operating life of the equipment and creating a comfortable swimming environment for the pool/spa user.
- All outdoor pools using chlorine can be stabilized with cyanuric acid. The cyanuric acid level must not exceed one hundred fifty (150) parts per million in 2010.

Test your knowledge of Reg. 61-51: J. Operation and Maintenance for All Pool Types

True or False

1. The owner or operator must report any death, injury, or accident, requiring an EMS response, an emergency room visit, or hospitalization to DHEC or designated agent in writing on DHEC-approved form within 48 hours of the occurrence.
2. Lifeguards must have their current certifications available for inspection while on duty.
3. At least one unit of life saving equipment must be inside the pool's fence, be within 200 feet walking distance from any point on the pool perimeter, and be readily accessible and functional during posted pool hours.
4. The location of the toll-free telephone or emergency notification device must be specified on the pool rules sign.
5. Biological contamination such as fecal, blood, or other body fluids shall be treated using guidance published by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on its "Healthy Swimming" Web site.
6. Maintenance shall follow all of the manufacturers periodic service and calibration schedules for the controller and associated monitoring equipment.
7. Pool, spa, lazy river, or other pool type temperatures shall not exceed 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.
8. It is acceptable to record the spa temperature once a day on the spa caution sign.
9. Cellular telephones are an acceptable type of emergency notification device.

Answer Key: 1. F 2. T 3. T 4. T
5. T 6. T 7. F 8. F 9. F



Preseason Inspections

As the new year usually begins in the midst of the cold, long nights of winter; most aquatic professionals, pool operators and aquatic facility staff are in anticipation of the warmer days of spring and the start of the upcoming swim season here in South Carolina. The upcoming 2010 swim season will also bring with it required upgrades and modifications for many pools as a result of amendments to the State's Recreational Waters program's public swimming pool regulations (R-61.51); effective June 26,2009.

Part of DHEC's Recreational Waters program inspection activities offered is a preseason inspection prior the opening your public pools each season. While a preseason inspection is not required, it is highly recommended. Our regional Environmental Health Managers can provide assistance with compliance requirements and a general safety inspection and/ or recommend corrective action before your pools are officially opened. Not only will this provide peace of mind, but it can also prevent untimely and unnecessary pool closures as a result of a failed routine inspection early in season.

Timing is everything! So get an early start on ramping up and preparing your pools by contacting your regional DHEC Environmental Quality Control office to schedule a preseason inspection. We consider the aquatic industry here in South Carolina a vital part of tourism and lifestyle sustainability, and take pride in our partnership with helping serve you and the general public.

You Asked: We Answered... Commonly Asked Questions Regarding Public Swimming Pools

- Q. Can the clubhouse phone be used as the pool telephone?**

A. It can be used if it is 200 ft or less from the primary entrance gate of the pool to the physical location of the phone. The clubhouse phone must remain unlocked, available to patrons, during all posted pool hours.
- Q. Are dogs allowed in the pool or on the pool deck?**

A. Animals, other than certified service/disabled assistance dogs, should not enter the fenced pool area. There are hygienic as well as patron safety aspects to this requirement.
- Q. I was advised by my child's daycare that they were no longer having water day due to DHEC regulations requiring one teacher per child if impounded water, such as a pool, were involved. I wanted to know if this were true, please clarify.**

A. Child Care Regulation Department of Social Services DSS 114-504 D states that children birth to 2 years old water safety staff to child ratio is 1:1. The current regulations were updated June 24, 2005. To obtain a copy of the entire Child Care Laws and Regulations visit our Web site at www.state.sc.us/dss/childcare
- Q. I would like to advertise my pool service company. Can you provide me a list of all the pools/spas in S.C.?**

A. A list of the S.C. commercial swimming pools/spas can be provided to you by contacting Jody Hamm, Director of the Freedom of Information Center, 803-898-3882.
- Q. Can your refer me to the pool guidelines on fences?**

A. From Regulation 61-51 C, (b) All outdoor Type "B", "C", "D" and "F" public swimming pools (including the deck area) shall be enclosed by a minimum four foot fence as measured from the exterior of the pool area. All openings in the barrier must be equipped with gates or doors, with latches, that close and latch automatically and can be locked. Courtyard fencing may not be adequate to constitute fencing of the pool area. No openings in the fence shall be large enough for a four (4) inch sphere to pass. Local building codes for the pool location may require a smaller fence opening.
- Q. If I lost my South Carolina certified pool operator certification card, can I get it replaced?**

A. Upon request from a candidate, Applied Measurement Professional (AMP) will issue a duplicate certificate for a fee of \$25.00 by check or money order. It is suggested that the candidate sends a request in writing, along with payment, to: AMP ES Dept, 18000 W. 105th St., Olathe, KS 66061.
- Q. Do I have to record spa temperatures?**

A. The shatter-resistant thermometer must be integrated with the skimmer lid and visible to the patron. Otherwise, the temperature must be recorded every two hours and posted on the spa caution sign.



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
We promote and protect the health of the public and the environment.
www.scdhec.gov